circular, have the dog-tooth ornament around them.

The chairman, in remarking upon these examples, said, timber buildings had the great merit of always seeming to be what they were; there was no counterfeit in them. Other examples of wooden pillars being asked for, Mr. Poynter mentioned, that the Guildhall at York, had wooden pillars, and belonged to the fifteenth century. Dr. Bromet said, the upper floor of the White Tower (of London) had wooden pillars.

Mr. R. D. Chantrell then read some observations on the existing remains of an ancient Norman roof, over the chancel of Adel Church, Yorkshire, discovered by him in 1843: and Mr. Scoles exhibited a drawing of a "cradle" roof, probably of the thirteenth century.

In connection with the vault formed of earthern tubes, described at the last meeting, Mr. Donaldson exhibited a drawing of the church of San Vitale at Ravenna, the vaulting of which was constructed of earthern pots. The vault illustrated at the last meeting, probably belonged to the sixth or seventh century.

Some specimens of Dampier's patent architectural tiles, in blue clay, were exhibited; also models of others in ornamental forms. Mr. J. D. Hopkins, architect, remarked, that he himself invented these tiles nine years ago, and was quite surprised when he found them getting into use, some time since, under a patent.

The chairman announced, that the drawings submitted for the royal medal would be open for the inspection of the members on and after the 27th instant.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COLLATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Ninivch Antiquities at Paris.—These valuable relics have been brought from Abushir to Havre by the Royal Gabarre *le Cormorant*. Mr. Botta had them conveyed on rafts from Mossul to Bagdad, whence they were conveyed down to the embouchure of the Shat el Arab by the crew of the above vessel. As these antiquities consist of soft alabaster, great care is required in their conveyance, on which account they will be brought on the Seine down to the very steps of the Loûvre. Two halls on the ground-floor of this building have been prepared for their reception. Fears are entertained, that these preparations have begun too late, and that the Niniveh blocks may share the fate of the huge Egypt monuments, which have been piled up like lumber in some adjacent halls, for the last twenty years (?) As, during the last session of the French parliament, 300,000 francs have been voted for the publication of Mr. Botta's discoveries, the work is in a fair way of progress; and the first parts are expected to come out very shortly. It will consist of an historic and descriptive text by Mr. Botta, and 180 plates of basso-relievos, after the splendid designs of Mr. Flandin; with 250 plates of inscriptions, copied by Mr. B, (likewise the designs) *on the spot*. So far, the French government has done every thing to place this discovery on a line with the great work on Egypt, undertaken by Napoleon, which (to use a phrase of the King of Bavaria) will last longer than his military renown. It is to be regretted, that no arrangements have been made to make such a work accessible to every competent artist,—or, at least, to every reputable library. But as the price of a copy is 1,800 francs (75*l*.), and only 100 copies are to be sold, it will be attainable but by few persons.

The Triest Art-Union Exhibition.—This city, situate on the confines of Germany and Italy, may be presumed to combine some of the art-characteristics of both these countries. Here, also, the works of foreign (not Austrian) artists have been admitted—assimilating art to the legitimate principles of free competition. Thus, landscapes of Morgenstern, in Munich, Ruyter, of Antwerp, Leyboldt, at Dresden, were here to be met with. It is said, however, that the works of Italian artists (even Bisi and Canella, at Milan) stood much behind those of the Germans. Amongst the architectural views, those of A. Bayer, at Baden, occupied the first place; amongst them a basilica, painted with a bold brush. Mr. Zeichini, of Padua, exhibited a fine perspective view of the interior of the dome of St. Stephen, at Vienna. The Triest journalists invite foreign artists to exhibit their works in that city,—reminding them, moreover, that for bold rock scenery, inland and on the shores of the sea, no other city can be found to equal Triest, whose vicinity to Istria and the monuments of Salona and Spalato (corrupted of *Palatium*), may also be taken into account.

Railway Speculations in Germany.—The principle, that *every too much is noxious*, has been amply exemplified during the present railway panic at Berlin, where a company effectually offered at the Bourse shares of the Stargard-Posen line, to the amount of 5,000 dollars, for *nothing*—but the stipulation to fulfil the conditions which may hereafter be imposed upon the shareholders; the receiver, of course, gaining all the deposits, &c.

German Public Library at Rome.—The King of Prussia has ordered that the library of the late Prince Henry, consisting mostly of German works (many costly-illustrated art-works), should remain at Rome, and be made accessible to the German—we trust to *all* the—public.

Late Conflagration at Berlin.—An awful fire has raged of late in some of the populous quarters of Berlin, by which the insufficiency of measures and means, in the case of such catastrophes, has been fully proved. It is, however, to be hoped, that this mishap will afford some lesson, also, for the widening of some parts of Berlin, which are quite in the same state as they were in the fifteenth century. A law of expropriation, also, to purchase such rickety lumber of houses, becomes every day more urgent.

A Sight of Futurity.—I see in my mind's eye a time, when *all* (of us) will be, what they have been destined by nature for—*human beings*; an idea, eccentric, yet attainable. I see, like in the times of remote antiquity, splendour and show reserved *alone* for the temples of divinity, and the uses of the public (*people*). I see *art* displayed *everywhere* where it can be beheld by *every one*. I see huge piles and temples and colonnades vibrating with the festive strains of happy—yet not luxurious people. I see *not*, and never can conceive, an *equality* of talent (power!), physical force, beauty, genius, but I behold a human society of human beings! I see every attention paid to human comfort—every square and street and house and room tidy and sleek, and clean and *clear!*—But I see also civilization (like the great luminary of day) moving *westward*. Niniveh buried; the temples of Balbeck nearly drifted over with sand; the Jerusalem of Solomon un-recognizable by a throng of events; the Pyramids despoiled of their once granite-lustre; the Parthenon a mere wreck of the times of old; Rome withering into decay! In the West—*nearer* or remoter West, the shine of a 5,000 years' concluding civilization glares on our sight; different, *at least*, from what it has ever been before. But, whatever the seer and poet may dream, the philanthropist wish for, the statesman devise or even enact, it is the builder who has to *construct* the futurity of prophecies. —[*Isis of Oken.*]

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

THE NEW ROOMS.

Sir John Rennie, president, in the chair. The annual general meeting of the institution was held on Tuesday evening 19th inst., and at the ballot for the officers for the ensuing year, the following gentlemen were elected:—Sir John Rennie, president; W. Cubitt, J. Field, J. M. Rendel, and J. Simpson, vice-presidents; J. F. Bateman, J. K. Brunel, J. Locke, Sir J. Macneill, J. Miller, W. C. Mylne, T. Sopwith, R. Stephenson, G. P. Bidder, and J. Cubitt, members; and Captain Coddington, and C. Holtzapffel, associates of council.

The report of the council was very satisfactory, as it announced the institution to be in a prosperous state in every respect, and induced a full conviction that the recently improved premises would be advantageously occupied for the members and the profession generally. Telford medals were presented to Messrs. Barlow, Snell, Harding, Williams, Parkes, West, and Ritterbandt; and premiums of Books to Messrs. Turnbull, Heppel, and Robertson. *Council premiums*, consisting of collections of books of considerable value, were presented to Messrs. Barlow, Snell, and Harding, in addition to the Telford medals. It was announced in the annual report of last year, that the council intended establishing these premiums, and from their value and the stimulus they offer to the competitors, it is hoped they will produce good communications for the meetings.

Succinct memoirs were given of the deceased members, Messrs. Crane, Deville, Handley, and Winsland.

The report entered fully into a description of the alterations of the building during the recess. It appeared, that in consequence of the resolutions of a general meeting, Mr. T. H. Wyatt, architect, was requested to make certain alterations, and Mr. Grissell undertook their execution. Within the short space of four months, these have been completed, and all are inhabited except the theatre, which is yet too damp. The principal works appeared to be the remodelling the basement story; putting an entirely new foundation beneath and partly rebuilding the front wall, which has been cased with Caen stone, and decorated in the Italian style, with a portico at the entrance and balconies to the first and second floors. The ground-floor rooms are thrown together, and decorated with oak panelling. The rooms on the first and second floors are made to communicate with each other by folding doors, forming suites of rooms for libraries. The new theatre is so much enlarged as to contain nearly one hundred persons more than the old one; it is now twenty-two feet high, well lighted both by day and night. The thanks of the meeting were unanimously given to Mr. T. H. Wyatt, the architect; Mr. Grissell, the builder; and Mr. Manby, the secretary, who superintended the execution of the works.

In his address, Sir John Rennie, after alluding to the stimulus the profession had received from the number of public works recently undertaken, and the high position which the Institution had obtained from the successful labours of its various members, urged the necessity of still further exertions, in order to support the scientific character they had earned. Far from being satisfied with what they had done, this feeling should only act as incentive to greater efforts; but by continuing in the same course, they might arrive at a point as much in advance of what had been done in the present day, as they were now beyond what had been done in the time of Smeaton. He then reviewed the progress that had been made in railway travelling and steam navigation; and made some remarks upon the formation of bar harbours, the drainage of extensive districts of marsh lands; and, after glancing at the improvements which had taken place in various branches of science, he observed, that the present position of civil engineers in Great Britain had been brought about entirely by the wants of the community. Without the encouragement or fostering hand of royal or government patronage, they had attained an unequalled degree of eminence in every department; their prospects were bright, and would continue so, if they held well together, and were zealous of their present high reputation. The president then remarked upon the appointment of civil engineers by Government, to investigate into the merits of various projects which had been submitted to the Health of Towns Commission, and which he characterized as a step in the right direction; and observed, that if the same system had been pursued with regard to railways and other important works, so as to have enabled the legislature to arrive at correct conclusions respecting many of the projects, the public would have derived infinitely greater advantages than they were likely to do from their present system, as the naval and military officers who had been appointed upon these commissions, however talented in their own profession, and highly honourable and well-intentioned, must, after all, derive their information from civil engineers, who alone would be competent judges. Neither could he approve of the system of interfering too much with private enterprise; the public understood their own interests much better than any government, and although the present system might have some defects, it had hitherto worked well. Competition had produced talent and employment for it, and the result had been eminently satisfactory. They had only to compare many of the establishments of government with those of private

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